

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 11, 2000

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-34)

TO: John Baugher – KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Eliminate Gravel Push-up Dams in Lower North Fork John Day River

Project No: 1998-017-00

Budget No: F5016

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.25

Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: North Fork John Day River, Grant County, Oregon.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the North Fork John Day Watershed Council.

Description of the Proposed Action: The goal of this project is to eliminate gravel push-up dams on the lower North Fork John Day River, and replace them with permanent pumping stations for irrigation systems. These dams are traditionally rebuilt by irrigators annually, by using bulldozers to recontour the streambed. The replacement of these dams with permanent pumping stations will remove passage barriers for fish and eliminate the annual instream bulldozer work.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Robert Stubblefield of the North Fork John Day Watershed Council and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Steelhead trout are the only listed threatened or endangered species that would be affected by the project. A biological assessment was submitted by BPA to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on May 17, 2000. The intakes for the pump systems were designed with the assistance of a NMFS engineer. A determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” was made for the threatened Middle Columbia steelhead, and their designated critical habitat. NMFS concurred with BPA's determination on June 16, 2000. This concludes the requirement for informal consultation on threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

From surveys for similar projects in the vicinity, no known historical or archeological sites are located within the areas of project installation. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs have also been consulted. The Prineville Bureau of Land Management cultural resources staff is conducting a survey of the site. The contract for this project will be made contingent upon completion of the survey and concurrence from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office on any findings.

The contract will also be contingent on the North Fork John Day Watershed Council obtaining a Section 404 permit for stream work from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Sections 7.10 and 10.2 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy H. Weintraub

Nancy H. Weintraub

Environmental Project Lead - KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Robert W. Beraud for

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 11, 2000

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

NMFS Concurrence Letter